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/ Contents

- 07 Your Wedding Planning Checklist
- 11 Tips For Planning A Ceremony You'll Love
- 15 Floral Consultation
- 19 Ordering Your Dream Cake
- **21** Wedding Traditions
- 24 Feature Wedding
- 26 The Importance of Choosing to Video Your Wedding
- 29 The DJ
- 31 Capture The Moment
- 32 10 Photography Tips
- 35 Write Your Wedding Vows?
- 37 Tuxedos Styles
- **40** Bridal Showcase
- 41 Venues of Northern California
- **42** Wedding Directory



Bride: Breanna Foster **Groom:** Derek Foster

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YOUR WEDDING PLANNING CHECKLIST

Here's a complete breakdown of everything you need to do—and when you need to do it. From setting a budget to finding your dream dress to packing your bridal emergency kit, we've got you covered!

12+ MONTHS

Set budget

Determine if parents will make

monetary contributions

Draft guest list

Find and reserve ceremony and

reception sites

Set wedding date

Start dress shopping

Determine rain plan, if celebrating outdoors

Book planner, if using

9+ MONTHS

Announce wedding party

Order dress

Book caterer

Book photographer

Book DJ or band

Begin registry

Create wedding website, if using

Reserve hotel rooms for out-of-towners

6 TO 9 MONTHS

Mail save-the-dates, if sending

Book officiant

Book florist

Order stationery, including invites

Book tent, if outdoor wedding

Order bridesmaid dresses

Plan honeymoon

4 TO 6 MONTHS

Begin dress fittings

Determine menu

Hire lighting designer, if using

Book rentals (chairs, dishes, furnishings, etc.)

Order transportation (limos, etc.)

Make rehearsal dinner reservation

Order cake

Discuss music options with DJ or band

2 TO 6 MONTHS

Plan ceremony readings and music

Book hairstulist and makeup artist, if using

Order favors

Choose flowers

Test-run hairstyles with hairstylist

Order groomsmen outfits

2 MONTHS BEFORE

Attend tasting at caterer's, if offered

Discuss vendor meals with caterer

Buy wedding party gifts

Buy wedding-day extras (guest book, cake

knife, etc.)

6 WEEKS BEFORE

Mail invitations (but earlier if destination or holiday wedding)
Buy rings
Buy garter, if doing toss
Check electrical power at reception site

4 WEEKS BEFORE

Create signature drink

Begin seating chart
Get marriage license (check state requirements)
Decide who will do readings and toasts
Print ceremony programs
Create day-of schedule and send to vendors
Send rehearsal dinner invitations
Write vows, if writing

2 WEEKS BEFORE

Give caterer guest count
Discuss play-list with DJ or band
Discuss shot list with photographer
Assign transportation leaders, if
necessary
Decide who will decorate reception site
Break in wedding shoes
Order snacks for getting-ready room, if
catering

WEEK OF

Pick up dress
Gather day-of essentials
Put together emergency kit bridal bag
Assign someone to gather parties for
photographs
Put together favors and welcome bags
Assign day-of point person (to answer
guest questions)
Pick up rings (good job for groom)
Confirm vendor delivery and arrival times







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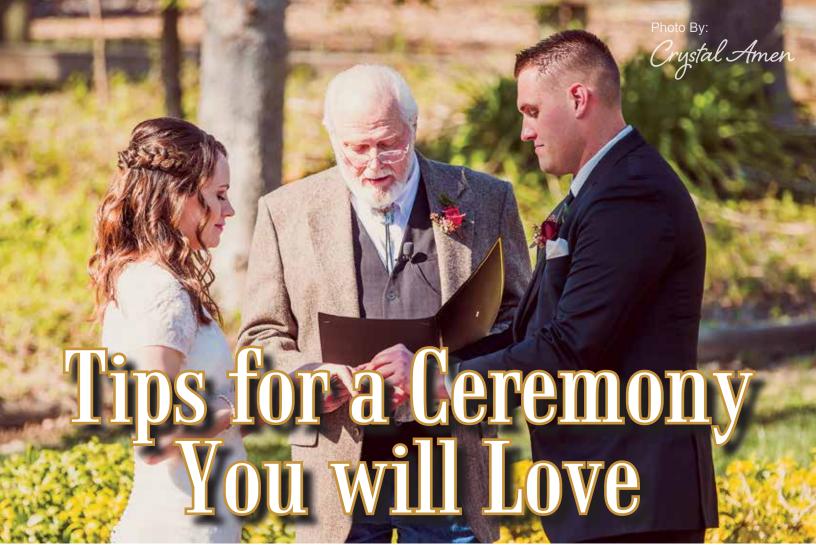




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Then planning a wedding, many couples focus on the little details, like the wedding party's attire, the centerpieces, and those delicious signature drinks. But amidst planning an elaborate and beautiful celebration, it's easy to overlook the main aspect of your big day: The wedding ceremony. Waiting until the last minute to plan your service may result in disorganization and lack of personality. Since every couple deserves a memorable "I do" moment, here are six tips to help you structure a ceremony you'll love.

YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

Discuss the basics with your partner.

You and your partner should discuss your desired ceremony style early on in the planning process. Do you want a long or short service? Traditional or modern? Also decide if your ceremony will be religious, interfaith (mixing two separate religions), spiritual, or civil (adhering to state law instead of religion). Naturally, the type of ceremony will determine your officiant; religious leaders often officiate religious services, while a government official pre-

sides over civil ones. Once the couple agrees on style, it's time to structure the ceremony.

Plan an introduction.

After the processional, the officiant usually begins the ceremony with an introduction. Some couples prefer the officiant to simply thank the guests, while others desire an elaborate re-telling of their entire love story. Choose the introduction that feels right for your relationship and ceremony.

Choose readings that speak to you.

The introduction of the ceremony usually involves readings presented by a friend or relative of the couple. If you want to include a reading, opt for something that has special meaning to the two of you, whether it's a religious verse, a passage from a novel, or a funny personal essay. Don't be afraid to get creative, and keep each reading short (about two minutes or less) so your guests don't lose interest. You may also consider scattering the readings throughout the ceremony. Keep in mind that some officiants need to approve of the readings beforehand.

Continued on page 12

Exchange vows in the way that feels best.

Perhaps the highlight of a wedding ceremony is the vow exchange. Like all other parts of a service, your vows should be catered to your ceremony style and personal preference. Oftentimes the officiant will recite vows, and the bride and groom will repeat them afterward. But many couples nowadays opt for different types of vow

exchanges; for example, reciting vows at the same time, memorizing traditional vows and reciting them without prompting from the officiant, and writing their own vows. (see Vows article on page 35)

Plan your picture-perfect "I do" moment.

After the vow exchange comes the declaration of intent

(in which the couple says "I do") and the ring exchange. Remember to enjoy and appreciate these moments! After all, it's when you officially become husband and wife. Make sure the backdrop is one you want to remember forever, as this is one of the most photographed portions of the day.



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Consider other religious and cultural rituals.

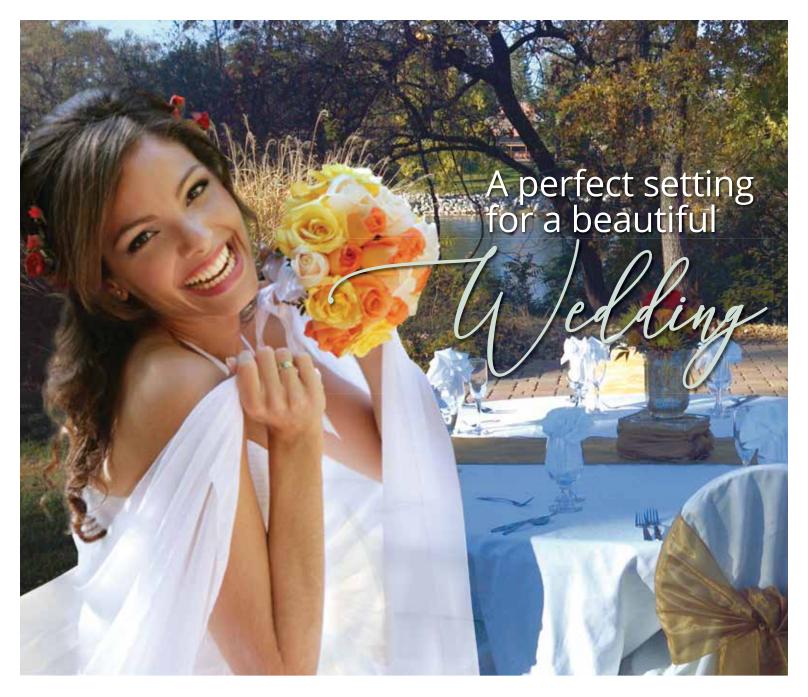
Some couples may want to incorporate other rituals at this point in the ceremony, either for religious, personal, or cultural reasons. Some examples include a group blessing, unity candle, or breaking of a glass (a tradition at Jewish weddings). Make sure your officiant understands the ritual beforehand to prevent any missteps.

"And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."

Colossians 3:14:







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Once the love of your life has proposed and reality of planning your wedding hits a bride it can be a bit overwhelming with all the choices. Many brides have never thought much about what flower they want and what each one is called. Your local florist is here to help.

First step is to think ahead. Start talking to a local florist as soon as possible so that they can help with your choices and be sure they can get any special order you may want. Contact your florist to schedule a consultation. To prepare for your consultation look at pictures on pintest, google, bridal magazines, etc. See what colors, styles and possible flower types you like. At your meeting show florist your favorites. At this point a local florist can go over options. Things to discuss include the Season of your wedding, temperature on the day of wedding, budget, possible flowers in your color or style, arrangement you want, and how you see your special day.

Possible things to think about when thinking of floral choices:

SEASON OF WEDDING:

- Sunflowers can be used all year but winter they are imported and may be smaller and not as good quality.
- Peonies are very hard to get in the fall and if they are able to be ordered may be much higher price.
- Anemone are beautiful but can also be harder to get in the fall and do not hold up to heat well.
- Hydrangea are large and take up lots of room in an arrangement but heat is very hard on them and they need lots of water in a cool environment.
- Dahlias are be great choice in the fall but can be harder to

get and higher cost in the spring.

BUDGET:

- Peonies, garden rose, and orchids are higher cost floral choices. If you are a bride that has a high floral budget these are a great choice. If you are a bride on a budget like I was you can discuss a possible substitution that might be easier on your pocket book.
- Red roses during the Valentine's Day season can double in price.
- Arrangements can be used for 2 purposes at your wedding. Ceremony arrangement can also be used as centerpieces or other reception decorations. Bouquets can also be used as bridal table decorations.
- Using larger flowers can make a big impression at a lower cost.

COLOR:

- Blue and green flowers have a limited choice but many flowers can be dued or painted to any color.
- Some flowers my very in the shade of the color you love. In some cases, the same plant can grow light purple and dark purple flowers and availability can very.
- Light pink and burgundy are a trend in bridal flowers this year. Due to this it can be difficult to get some flowers in these colors. Be sure to give your florist plenty of time to order flowers.

VENUE

- If your venue indoor or outdoor?
- Does your venue have refrigeration?
- Temperature on your wedding day. It can be very hot in Northern California in the Summer.
- What natural decorations does your venue have and will your colors or style go with your venue.

Flower arrangements you want:

BRIDAL PARTY AND FAMILY FLOWERS WHO NEED FLOWERS

- Bride: Match flowers to dress, bride's stature, favorite color, favorite flower, etc
- Bridesmaid/Maid of honor: Do you want the same bouquets for Bridesmaids and Maid of Honor? Smaller version
- of Bride's Bouquet or different than the bride.
- Groom Boutonnière: Match to Bride's bouquet, tux, groomsman, etc
- Groomsmen/Best man Boutonnière: Do you want the same for Groomsmen, Groom and/or Best man?
- Father of Bride/Groom Boutonnière: Do you want the same for Groomsman, Groom and/or Best man?
- Mother of Bride/Groom: Do you want Corsage? Pin on or Wrist? Flowers you want in corsage?
- Is there any other family you may want flowers for? CEREMONY FLOWERS
- Wedding Arch: What size, style, color, type of flowers, etc?
- Do you want large arrangements for front or back of the aisle?
- Do you want arrangements for chairs?

- Do you want arrangements for down each side of the aisle?
- Do you need petals down the aisle? Reception flowers
- Center pieces: What size, style, color, are they flowers or dui, etc?
- Do you need Cake flowers?
- What do you want on your bridal table?
 - Will you need flowers for food tables, sign in table, gift table, etc?
 - Do you want flowers for extra decoration?

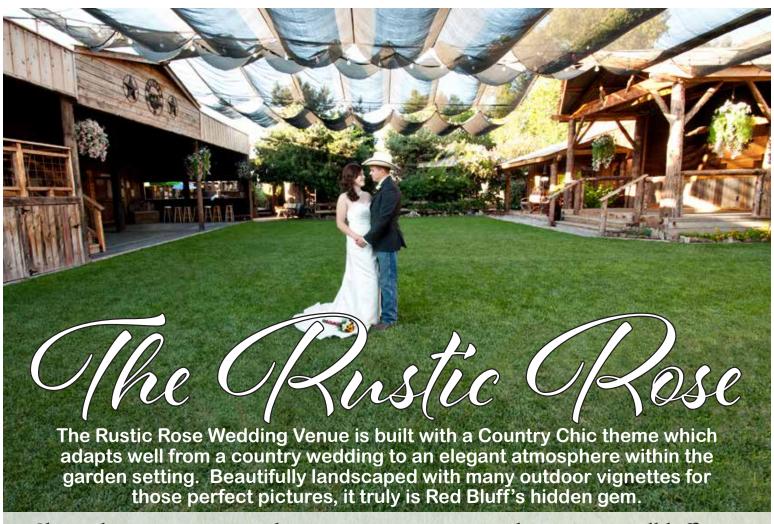
These are all thing that a bride can think of ahead and be ready to ask your local florist. Don't feel too overwhelmed to have all the answers before your consultation. These are all things that your local florist is here to help with. Also, if you see something after your consultation that you love more con-

tact your local florist to update your estimate. Your local florist will do everything they can to make your day beautiful and everything you dreamed of. Most of all remember to have fun and don't stress too much it will all work out in the end and you will be standing with the one you love.

Written by Amber Kay, Flowers By Amber

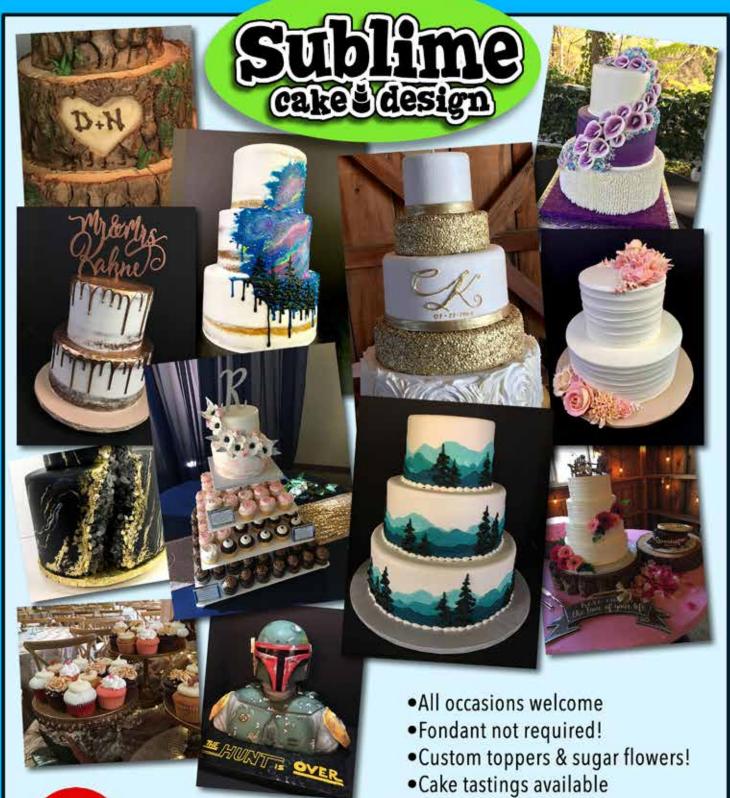






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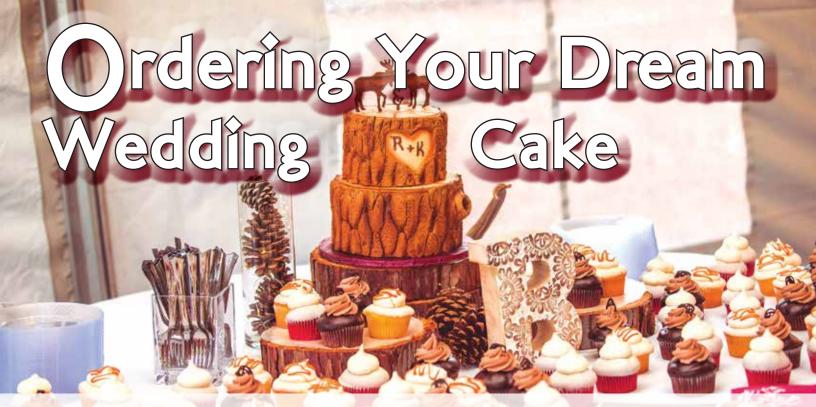




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Your big day is set, the venue is booked, and you've created the menu to serve your guests. What are you forgetting? The cake, of course! Not only will this serve as the dessert course following the dinner, but as a beautiful centerpiece that will get a lot of attention - second only to the bride, of course. This article will cover the basic, and more obscure, details to consider when choosing a wedding cake to remember.

Cake Tastings and Flavors

A cake tasting is a great starting point in finding the perfect wedding cake for you! Call around to bakeries in your area to see if they offer cake tastings, which are usually scheduled with advance notice, and try to see a list of flavors to prepare for. Be sure to bring along things that will help them with creating a custom design for you, such as invitations, color swatches, or pictures. After all, if you do not show your style and personality, how will it reflect in the cake?

When To Order

Chances are you are not the only wedding on your date in your area, as you may have found when trying to book caterers and venues. Luckily, most bakeries can handle more than one wedding cake each weekend. They can still book up very far in advance if that date happens to be a popular one. As a rule of thumb, start looking for your cake shop at the same time you book your other services to make sure you can use the company you like most.

Toppers and Flowers

A good cake topper can make or break a design. Make sure to consider the design, color scheme, and size of the cake when choosing a cake topper, as a whimsical topper can look out of place on an elegant cake. Some cake artists can also make customized edible toppers or monograms that will match the cake. When it comes to fresh flowers on a cake, size matters. Flowers too big or too small for a cake can affect the design. Furthermore, some flowers can be toxic, and should not be placed on cakes. Ensure that your florist

knows the size of the cake top and whether your flowers are safe for cake use.

Color Scheme

You want your color scheme to have continuity, and that means the cake should too. If you provide a swatch of the color, it can be matched as closely as possible on your cake. If you are using ribbon as a cake border, provide the ribbon to them to ensure the right shade and thickness desired.

Serving

Who's cutting the cake? Make sure to plan ahead on this one, as it is crucial that the servings be cut properly to cover dessert for all of your guests. Check with your caterer to ensure that they will cut and serve your cake, and that they have experience doing so. Some caterers will charge a cake cutting fee, and it is worth it! The last thing you want is to leave

it up to Uncle Joe to hack up the edible decoration you just paid hundreds for.



One growing trend that will alleviate this issue is to present a tower of cupcakes. Rather than to have to serve and plate cake, your guests can simply grab a cupcake, usually with several flavor options to choose from. It is customary to have a small cake atop the cupcake tower for

the bride and groom cutting ceremony, so you still get to have a beautiful cake on display. Ask the bakery to

show examples and price differences of tiered cakes versus cupcakes.

Grooms Cake

An old tradition to present the groom with a specialized dessert! In yesteryears, this was just an excuse to have a chocolate cake, as it was taboo to have anu flavor other than vanilla in the wedding cake. These days it means the groom gets presented with a specialty cake, planned in advance or as a surprise, that will represent their hobby or career in a fun, edible way. It is best to choose a single theme for the cake, like his favorite sports team or his beloved Cake by Sublime

golf bag, rather than try to fit too many ideas into one collage-style cake. On a day that is all about the bride, this can make a groom feel just as special.

Cake Table

This one is easy to overlook; the cake table and background. You will be taking pictures with the cake, so the last thing you want is unsightly objects interfering with your photos. Consider a decorative backdrop to give the pictures a nice professional look. Make sure the table is in a level, stable location out of the sun and away from bugs and heavy traffic, and is arranged how you want before the cake arrives to minimize cake movement. Plan in advance the tablecloth and decorative items that will be placed around the cake.

Delivery

A delivery fee can be an added expense, but considering how hectic things can be on your wedding day, sometimes it really is worth the peace of mind. If you do choose to pick up your cake, consider the following tips; Have an SUV or van with a flat spot for the cake, as tiered cakes often will not sit flat in a car seat or floorboard, and are very heavy. Even trunks can interfere with the height of the cake. Most wedding cakes are not put in boxes, so be aware of items that can slide or fall into the cake. Animals, children or reception supplies can increase the possibility of a cake accident, so plan ahead to avoid disaster.

Weather

Weather is unpredictable, so you should consider all

possibilities when setting up the cake table. Find a location that will work with any scenario. Direct sunlight in the California heat

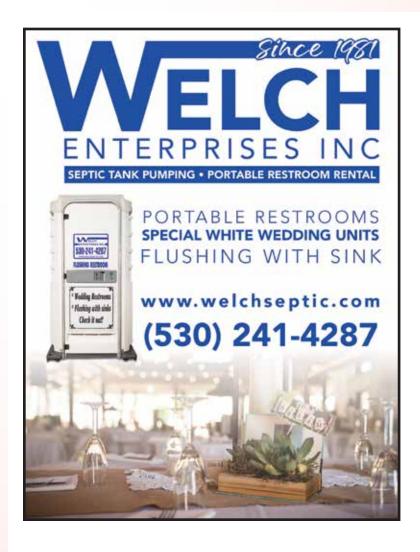
should be avoided at all costs. Also, insects can be a pesky problem if located near heavy foliage or bodies of water.

Planner

If using a wedding coordinator, have them contact the cake designer to finalize certain details, like delivery time and location specifics. Keep in mind that while they will help to keep things running smoothly, they cannot make decisions on your cake design and flavors. If you are not using a coordinator, provide the bakery a wedding day contact in case there are any last minute questions or issues.

Putting some thought into these seemingly minute details will really alleviate stress on your wedding day, and will keep things running smoothly. There are many cake disaster stories out there, and you do not want yours to be one of them. The cake itself may only last a few hours, but the pictures and memories will last a lifetime!

Written by Wiley Saccheri & Jackie New



OLD NEW BORROWED BLUE

WEDDING – Literally meant the purchase of a bride. The Anglo-Saxon word "Wedd" meant that the groom would vow to marry the woman and that the groom paid the bride's father for the privilege. This is the reason it is still customary for the father-of-the-bride to "give away" his daughter.

BRIDAL – Came from the "brew" the bride and groom drink. This was referred to as "bryd calu" or "bride's ale". This then evolved into the word "bridal".

WHITE – Denoted purity and virginity. Wearing this color was thought to repel any offending evil spirits. Before the introduction of the white wedding gown, a woman just wore her best dress.

WEDDING VEIL — Related to the days when the groom would throw a blanket over the head of the woman of his choice and cart her off. A veil related to the arranged marriages when the

bride's face was covered until the groom was committed to the bride at the ceremony. It would then be too late for him to escape.

CARRYING FLOWERS – by the bride has its roots in ancient times. Strong smelling herbs and spices were thought to ward off and drive away evil spirits, bad luck and ill health. The bouquet symbolized a woman in bloom.

THE BOUQUET – Is considered a sign of happiness. Also, throwing the bouquet was thought to be one way of distracting the crowd so that she could escape, if she changed her mind.

TOSSING THE GARTER – Began in France when pieces of the bridal attire were considered lucky. The bride would toss the garter and whoever caught it could expect good luck. Here, in the United States, the groom traditionally removes the garter from the bride and tosses it to the unmarried men. The man who catches it is thought to be the next to marry. Many brides will wear two garters. One she keeps as a memento and the other to be tossed to all the unmarried men.

THE GROOM – Is supposed to wear a flower that comes from the bridal bouquet in his lapel buttonhole. This stems from the medieval tradition of a knight wearing his lady's colors, as a declaration of his love.

BREAKING OF THE GLASS – Is common at Jewish weddings. After the ceremony, the groom stomps on a covered wineglass (or light bulb). The breaking of the glass relates to the lasting nature of the marriage vows and the breaking of the old and starting of the new.

SOMETHING OLD, NEW, BORROWED & BLUE – Something old signifies continuity and could be a piece of lace, jewelry or a grandmother's handkerchief.

Something new signifies optimism and could be an article of clothing or the wedding ring.

Something borrowed relates to your future happiness, so it could be a bracelet, a pearl necklace or a handkerchief from a happily married relative or friend.

Something blue signifies modesty, fidelity and love. In early Biblical times, blue (now white) symbolized purity. Both the bride and groom usually wore a band of blue material around the bottom of their wedding attire, hence the tradition of "something blue."

THROWING OF RICE – Is symbolic of wishing prosperity and good luck. In Asia, it signifies "may you always have a full pantry." In Italy throwing confetti is customary, while in Greece they prefer to throw dates or almond candies. Tying of old shoes to the back of the couple's vehicle comes from

Tudor times. Guests would throw shoes and if they hit the carriage it meant good luck was bestowed upon them. Throwing old shoes after the bride is a sign that authority is being transferred from the bride's father to her new husband. There are a few things to consider about throwing rice, confetti, flower petals, etc. at the ceremony and reception venues, so be sure to check first to see whether they allow this practice. It does create a mess and could be harmful to the local bird life.

Wedding Traditions

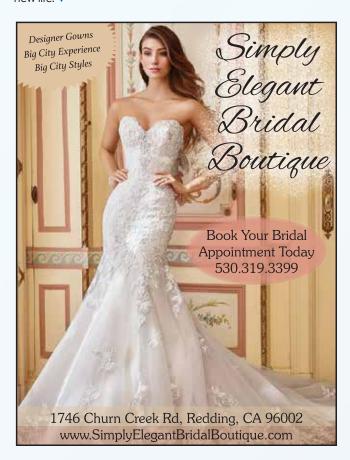
JUMPING THE BROOM — Is the most widely known African American wedding tradition. It was believed that whoever jumped over first or higher would be boss of the household. It signified their entrance into a new life and the jump from a single and carefree life to a more responsible domestic life with a partner.

WEDDING REEL OR MONEY DANCE – The wedding reel is most

often a tradition in the Midwestern states. Wedding guests form two lines and they pay a dollar or more to dance with the newlyweds. The couple then uses the money for their honeymoon.

INFARE – In the 1880s, it was an American custom for the groom's parents to host a feast on the day following the wedding. Today, this custom has evolved into a Sunday brunch intended to give outof-town guests more opportunity to visit with family, new family and friends.

CARRY THE BRIDE OVER THRESHOLD – Generations ago it was considered ladylike for the new bride to be hesitant to "give herself" to her new husband. At the doorway to the bridal chamber, the husband would often carry his bride over the threshold to their new life. ♥



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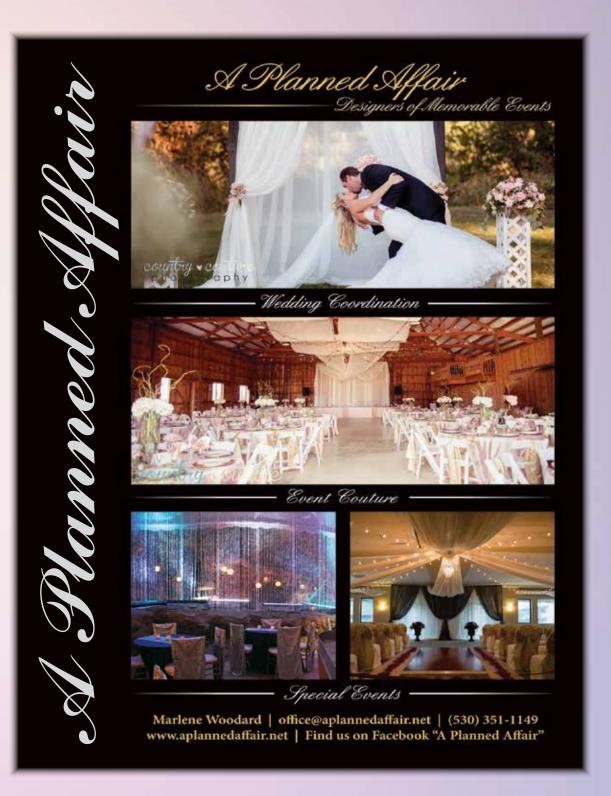
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Hair: Kalin Little

Officiant: Elizabeth Amlin Mobile Bar- Full Shebang Bar Cake: Cake Is The Best Part Rentals: Rustic Charm



The Importance of Choosing to Video Your Wedding

by Joanne Fox

If you are like most people, when an important event is happening in your life, most of the time it is hard and sometimes impossible to remember everything that is said or done, or who was there. It is so wonderful to relive memories from a professional who has captured that special moment for you on video.

You won't be sorry you used a professional for your video on that special day.

Keep in mind that you could accept the offer from a friend or relative who (out of good intentions) asks to video your wedding with their home camera as a gift, but what you will be feeling in most cases is NOT what you are expecting. Since it is a gift, you cannot tell them you are not happy with the video that may not have good sound from your vows or good quality video of your wedding day. True to form, your friend or relative is there not only to video for you, but to have a good time partying at your wedding. This means you should make a wise choice by hiring a professional, guaranteeing your wedding will be thrilling to watch or make the choice gambling that you will be happy with your non-professional video. The decision is yours... Just remember... "The Bitterness of Poor Quality" remains long after "The Sweetness of Low Price."

A reputable video company will not hesitate to answer any questions you may have. After your meeting and seeing their work, checking out references and feeling good about the memories that they will create for you, it's time to book.



When you do decide to hire a video professional, a few questions you should ask are:

- How long have you been in business for?
- Can I meet with you to see the quality of videos you do?
- Do you provide references?
- What kind of equipment do you use?
- Is it professional or consumer equipment and do you offer multi camera shoots?
- Do you attend rehearsals?
- If my photographer misses something, can you help with a still video frame?
- Do you put a wireless mic on the groom so we will hear our vows on the video?

- Do you use the wireless mic at the reception?
 - What are your prices and do you offer DVDs?
 - Do you offer the service of pictures and/or video to show at the reception or rehearsal dinner on a TV or big screen?
 - Can you do custom editing?
 - Can I be there when you do the editing?
 - Is there a contract to be

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Please, do not let someone handle the music for your wedding reception because they have downloaded a cool DJ app on their phone and they will do it for free. Just don't! Remember, you get what you pay for, and the DJ you hire will have a huge impact to the success, or doom, of your special day that you will remember forever.

ver my years of operating a successful DJ company it amazed me time and time again how little due diligence some clients put into hiring a DJ. It seemed they just picked one blindly and hired them because they "had my date open".

The very best way to start is by referral. This referral can come through your best friend's wedding you attended where

you witnessed the job the DJ did or by a referral from another wedding professional such as a wedding coordinator — they know everybody. Most people don't know this but if you don't have a professional wedding coordinator for the day of your wedding and reception, the DJ will be your wedding coordinator! A good DJ will coordinate the timing of all your day's events and should keep you

informed of what's happening and what's coming up next. They should make sure the reception is moving along at the right pace and not let it get stale and boring.

Make sure you get a signed contract from your DJ. The contract should list all the details of what they are expected to do, the start and end times of the event, the location, and of course the cost. One of the questions I always asked was "are there any songs you don't want played" which may sound strange but a Do Not Play list comes in handy. Knowing the bride does not want to hear Sir-Mix-A lot, "I like big butts" at her reception is crucial to success. If you want something special make sure it gets written down in the contract. Also, be prepared to make a deposit as soon as you have decided on your DJ. The best

DJ's get booked early and usually won't have many last minute dates available.

If your DJ did not come to you as a referral you will need to know some back ground about them. How long have they person been DJ'ing? Will the person you are talking to be the DJ at the wedding? Does the DJ book more than one event a day? Ask about their equipment and backup equipment in case

of a problem. Ask if they provide lights or special effects. One question rarely asked is about attire, whether it is a very formal event (suit required) or a Luau where khakis and a Hawaiian print shirt would be perfect.

Your DJ should be willing to meet with you several times before your wedding if needed. I found that two meetings were usually sufficient, but meet until

you're satisfied with the results. The first meeting is to discuss the wedding and reception plans and the second meeting (a couple weeks before the date) is to go over your specific songs and requests. After meeting and spending time with the bride, groom and family, I always felt like a member of the family and I believe this relationship we created was important to my success in providing excellent service to them.

I want to stress once again the importance of the DJ you hire, they will be the face and/or voice of your wedding day. What the DJ does, doesn't do, says or doesn't say will have a huge impact on the success of your event. Choose wisely and do your due diligence before choosing.

Don't choose a good DJ, choose a Great DJ! ♥

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Faptiff The Montent

How do I pick a good photographer when there are so many listed in my area?

Easy, look in your local Bridal Guide, ask other brides you know about their photographer, check the Internet for referrals and complaints.

Once you've narrowed it down to a handful of favorite photographers set up a time to meet with them. Make sure you're meeting with the person who will be wielding the camera at your wedding, not a sales consultant or studio owner. Not only should you like their images, you should also like them and trust in their abilities so that way you can leave the magic of photo making in the photographer's hands.!

How many photos do I get?

The wedding photographers typically deliver 50-100 photos for every hour of coverage they provide. Four hundred photos may seem like a lot, but your wedding photographer is preserving all those little details and the moments you missed while you were mingling.

I love those photos with the blurry backgrounds. How do you get that look?

You're talking about shallow depth of field. Photographers get that look by using professional lenses that are able to focus tightly on the subject.

I found one photographer whose images look soft and pastel, one whose images look clean, and one whose images look like they were shot on old film. What's the deal?

Every photographer has a different way of editing their images using computer software (the high-tech version of a darkroom). This is called "Post-Processing." Most photographers do some basic lighting and color adjustments, but you can also use editing software to create a unique look.

It doesn't matter which style you go with, as long as you love it!

Why is wedding photography so freakin' expensive?

This is the question heard most from brides. Wedding photography seems like easy money — work for one day and rake in the cash, right? But most full-time wedding photographers carry over \$15,000 worth of wedding gear and often work 60-hour weeks. (Remember those 800 images from question #2? It takes several full days just to edit those.) Add insurance, taxes, software, advertising, albums, repair, shipping, and studio expenses, and many photographers end up making less than minimum wage for the first few years of their career.

How can I make sure I look good in my photos?

Relax. Trust your wedding photographer. If you're relaxed, it'll come through in your photos.

Leave some breathing room in your schedule so you don't feel rushed — it is recommended to spend a minimum 30 minutes for family and wedding party photos, and an hour for the couple portraits.

Oh, and get plenty of sleep and drink lots of water the night before. Take it easy at the rehearsal dinner. Wedding-day hangovers are not fun.

I keep hearing about "shoot and burn" photography. Sounds painful. What is it?

Actually, yeah, it can be kind of painful. "Shoot and burn" is slang

for photographing a wedding and burning it straight to CD without post-processing. It's usually super cheap — for a reason. Bad lighting isn't corrected, distracting elements aren't removed (hello, Speedoclad photobomber!), and zits remain proudly on display.

Digital files may be important to you, but find a full-service photographer who will edit the images and print reference proofs before handing over the digital files.

And please, don't let the digitals rot on your hard drive. You will want to proudly display your wedding photos. Don't hide your wedding photos! Brides should hang up a large print or two — when you're having an off day, it's great to look up in your living room and see a photo of an awesome day.

Should we do a "first look"? And, um, what is a "first look"?

The first look is a chance for wedding couples to see each other privately before the ceremony. Two-thirds of my clients currently opt to do a first look. It's a great chance to get the wedding jitters out and spend a few minutes alone together. It's a real moment with real emotions.

Honestly, it's also a great way to avoid stress on your wedding day. (Some couples even choose to get ready together!) And many couples get to enjoy their whole cocktail hour because they got all of the photos out of the way before the wedding.

How far in advance should I book a wedding photographer?

Many in-demand wedding photographers book weddings at over a year out. As it gets closer to your wedding date, it will be harder to book your first-choice photographer.

If your favorite photographer is unavailable on your date, don't panic. Ask them for recommendations — they may know someone with a similar style and a lighter schedule.

You can Photoshop that, right?

It depends. Photographers want to get everything as perfect as possible in camera. Posing, location scouting, and camera settings can "fix" most things before the shutter ever clicks. If your uncle photobombs you, retake the photo — it's much easier to get the photo right than to fix it with Photoshop. Many photographers charge for extensive editing in Photoshop, because it can be very time-consuming.

Hopefully this clears up some burning questions about wedding photography — and makes it a little bit easier to find the perfect photographer for your wedding day.

10 Wedding Photography Tips by: Crystal Amen

- 1. Communicate with your photographer on what your vision is for your wedding day.
- 2. Always have FUN and be Silly sometimes.
- 3. Listen to your photographer sometimes if you think a spot would look great for photos, it may not be that time of day you are shooting those particular photos.
- 4. If you have the ability to do Sunset Photos do it, you



WON'T regret it! (it only takes 15 minutes)

5. When you and your wedding party are taking photos after the ceremony and there are other family and friends with cameras also taking photos, remember who

you are paying to take your photos. Everyone needs to look at the photographer. While the photographer is waiting to for everyone to look at him or her that is precious time wasted for the party to get started. ALWAYS look at the photographer.

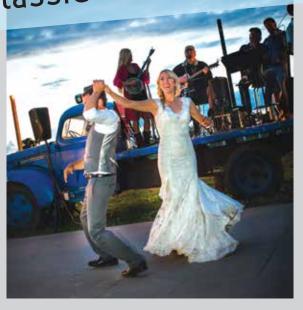
- **6.** Having some sort of time-line to keep the day moving is not only awesome for the photographer but great for your guests. Even though it may not be followed exactly minute by minute but if it is close it makes all the difference.
- 7. Knocking out all the ceremonial things one right after the other is not only beneficial for the photographer but for your older guests. When you start the toasts moving right into Cake Cutting and First Dances helps those that want to leave early best to be there for those memorable events. The Bouquet and Garter can always wait a couple songs after the first dances but don't wait too long lighting is always key to great photography.
- 8. When the Bride and her Bridesmaids are getting ready try to keep the room neat and tidy. A messy room doesn't make for great getting ready photos. Not all photographers will pick up after you.
- 9. When having outdoor weddings think about the sun with outdoor ceremonies. From my experience having your guests face the sun is best for photos in full sun. If you can find shade that would be best to avoid harsh light.
- 10. Work with your photographer and if you have specific photos you might want him or her to capture be sure to send them to them. They will do their best to get them. ♥

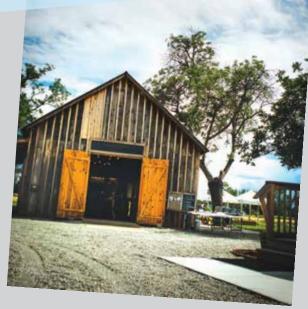






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Wedding Vows: Their, Meaning & Tips For Writing Your Own



uring your wedding ceremony, you (the bride) and your groom pledge yourselves to one another. You do this, in

part, with the vows you express to each other. This is why wedding vows should not be taken lightly.

Just like anything else in your wedding, your vows are a reflection of who you are. You can choose to write vows that are

traditional, religious, customized, interfaith, multilingual –the possibilities are endless.

A "wedding vow" is a set of promises you and your groom make to each other during your wedding ceremony. In Western culture, the wedding vows customarily included the notions of selflessness such as love, faithfulness (forsaking others), unconditional (in sickness and in health), and permanence (until death do us part).

During your vows at the very least you must have an officiant and witnesses present. Traditionally, the groom pronounces his vows first, followed by the bride. The order can be changed; there is no law that sets the order in which the vows are spoken. It is possible for

the bride and groom to say the vows in unison to each other. Usually the couple will face each other and join hands for their vows.

Almost all wedding officiants allow you to customize your vows, and it should be discussed prior to the ceremony. If you are unsure about the wording of your vows, ask your friends, family, and the officiant for some examples they've used in the past.

When Should You Write Your Wedding Vows?

You need enough time to get the words right.

When you start wedding planning, you'll do all the big-ticket items first, like figuring out a budget, coming up with a guest list, securing a date, and booking a caterer and venue. Assuming you have about a year to plan the event, writing your vows comes much later, from two to six months before the wedding. If you're throwing a big celebration, you may still be catching up on other details,

such as hiring a florist and finding an officiant, at the six-month mark; in that case, you'll put off creating custom vows until the two-month mark. Those planning a smaller wedding, can start earlier if they want. Regardless of how much time you have, some brides and groom

will wait until the very last minute to pen their ceremony exchange. While this works for some people, it's advis-

Continued on page 36

VOW / noun /
1. A solemn promise.
Synonyms: oath, pledge, promise, bond, covenant, commitment, avowal, profession, affirmation, attestation, assurance, guarantee; word, word of honor.





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Vows

able to give yourself a little more buffer room.

Regardless of when you actually plan to start writing, it's a good idea to start keeping track of things you might sau in your vows from the moment you get engaged. Here's how to make the most out of your pre-writing time.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR VOWS

Keep track of sudden ideas.

No matter when you officially plan to sit down and write the vows, you could start thinking about what you want

them to say much earlier. Use a notes app on your phone to jot down song lyrics you hear, poetry that comes to mind, or lines from movies that could be incorporated into your vows. Does he send you romantic texts with sentiments that might be appropriate in your vows? Add them to the list!

Start early with a reluctant groom.

Since your groom may not be as eager as you to put his feelings down in a very personal way for the world to hear, don't wait until the last minute to get him to write. When he's not under a tight deadline, he (and you) will feel much more open and creative. 💙



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Wedding Venue

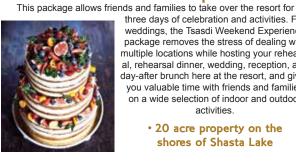
CELLAR - This is our most intimate venue and can accommodate 25 to 30 guests. Perfect

for romantic dinners or celebrations.

LOWER COURT -



Depending on layout, this venue can accommodate up to 300. The lower court offer a large open space for seating, and can accommodate a variety of table layouts.



Tuxedo Styles

Navigating the wide variety of tuxedo styles available can feel overwhelming, leading otherwise stylish guys to revert to the same old looks.

This guide will prevent you from wasting countless hours

poring over Google Images for tux ideas. There's a more thoughtful way to approach men's formal-wear that results in a better, more personal outfit. Whether you're a modern groom, or just trying to chase down the latest trends, this guide will answer questions you never knew you had about the pinnacle of men's clothing: the tuxedo.

At first glance, suits and tuxedos might seem pretty similar. But before we establish what a tuxedo

is, let's talk about what a tux is not. A tuxedo is not just a black suit worn with a bow tie. While that description misses some of the finer details of the tux, it also assumes that all tuxedos are black and white (they're not). And while bow ties are the traditional neckwear match for a tux, they're not your only option.

For the groom, your bride is wearing a princess gown in your wedding, you may look too casual standing next to her in a suit. Go for a tux. that compliments her dress style.

When you're choosing a tux jacket, the details make all the difference. Your tuxedo style is largely defined by the jacket, and while picking one might sound simple enough (um, black?), there's a lot you need to pay attention to—like lapels, buttons, and even fabric—when putting together your look.

Tuxedo Lapel Styles

NOTCH LAPELS

The standard in men's suiting today, notch lapels are found on everything from sport coats to business suits—which also means they're considered more casual than other lapel



types. They have a "notch" where the jacket collar meets the lapel. Despite being a casual lapel type, notch lapels are versatile—you'll find them on both suit and tuxedo jackets.



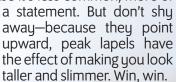
SHAWL COLLARS

Shawls aren't just for little old ladies. Shawl (collars, that is) are characterized by a modern, rounded shape, and are primarily seen on tuxedos and dinner jackets. While shawl lapels are pretty much only found on black tie-appropriate garments, some would argue that they are less formal than a peak lapel. You could also argue they have more panache. Use your judgment based on the event and your per-

sonal style.

PEAK LAPELS

Peak lapels are slightly wider than notch lapels, with edges that "peak" upward toward your face. Originally seen in highly formal, highly traditional garments like tailcoats, the peak lapel has since made its way into tuxedo and suit jackets alike. It's generally viewed as more formal than the notch lapel, and, because it's less common, more of

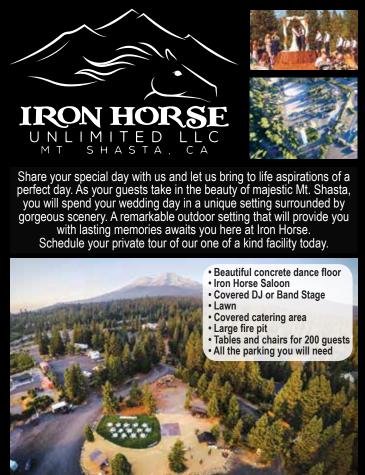




Double Breasted Jackets

Double-breasted jackets have overlapping front flaps and two sets of buttons. Traditionally associated with everything from '30s gangsters to '80s Wall Street brokers, today's double-breasted suits are a slimmer cut (which makes them much more flattering), and perfect for the guy who wants a bold look. While viewed as more





Tuxedo Continued

formal than its single-breasted brother, we say wear the DB wherever you want: office, burger joint, wedding—which is why we made a double-breasted tux.

Tuxedo Colors

Tuxedo colors and styles.

When you think of the iconic tux, you probably think in grayscale. And while we obviously respect tradition, the modern tuxedo isn't always black and white.

Midnight blue tuxedos got their start as an acceptable alternative to black tuxes because their dark blue fabric appeared blacker than true black under the glow of early electric lighting. Later, tropical climates necessitated the white dinner jacket—a warm-weather take on the tux.

Unique fabric colors or patterns can also up your game. Gingham, tartan, and bright fabrics make a bold, celebratory statement.

And there is more

- Materials
- Button Styles
- Shirt Styles
- Shirt Collars
- Shirt Bibs
- Shirt Plackets
- Shirt Cuffs
- Tuxedo Neckwear
- Cummerbund or Vest
- Shoes
- Tuxedo Accessories

We suggest visiting your local Tuxedo shop and consult the experts. See, feel and choose what's right for you.











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Albaugh Ranch	vrbo.com/191318	530-336-6267	NO/YES	350	NO	NO
Bianchi Orchards	bianchiorchards.com	530-527-9157	YES/YES	25/300	YES	YES
Cascade Theatre	cascadetheatre.org	530-243-8886	YES/NO	100	SOME	NO
Cattleman's Restaurant	beststeakinthewest.com	530-330-2766	YES/NO	120	YES	YES
Frontier Senior Center	frontierseniorcenter.com/rental-of-facility	530-365-3254	YES/YES	350/150	YES	NO
Gaia Hotel & Spa	gaiahotelspa.com	530-365-7077	YES/YES	250	YES	YES
Gold Hills Golf Club	goldhillsgolf.com/weddings-events	530-246-7867	YES/YES	200	YES	YES
Gover Ranch	goverrancheventcenter.com	530-776-4026	NO/YES	400	NO	NO
Grace Lake Resort	gracelakeresort.com	707-499-3604	YES/YES	150	YES	NO
Heart S Ranch	heartsranch.com	530-347-0077	NO/YES	200	YES	NO
Highlands Ranch Resort	highlandsranchresort.com	530-595-3388	YES/YES	150	YES	YES
Hilton Garden Inn	redding.hgi.com	530-226-5111	YES/NO	150	YES	YES
Holiday Inn Hotel	holidayinn.com	530-221-7989	YES/NO	1000	YES	YES
House on the River	houseontheriver.com	530-945-1104	YES/YES	300	YES	YES
Lake California	lakecalifornia.net	530-347-7906	YES/YES	120	YES	NO
McCloud Guest House	guesthousemccloud.com/weddings	530-964-3160	NO/YES	250	NO	YES
McCloud Hotel	mccloudhotel.com / thehallmccloud.com	530-964-2822	YES/YES	200	YES	YES
Mercy Oaks (SSNP)	ssnpweb.org/facility-rental	530-226-3070	YES/YES	300	YES	NO
Mount Shasta Resort	mtshastaresort.com	530-926-3030	YES/YES	150/250	YES	YES
Mt. Shasta Ski Park	skipark.com	530-926-8610	YES/YES	50-300	YES	YES
Prescott Ballroom	theprescottballroom.com	530-727-9099	YES/YES	125	YES	NO
Red Lion Hotel	redlion.com/red-lion-hotels	530-221-8700	YES/YES	200-350	YES	YES
Redding Elks Lodge	reddingelks.com/html/our_facility.html	530-243-5900	YES/YES	300	YES	YES
Redding Senior Center	reddingseniorcenter.org	530-241-9759	YES/YES	700	YES	NO
Riverview Golf & Country Club	riverviewgolf.net	530-224-2253	YES/YES	300	YES	YES
Sacramento River House	sacramentoriverhouse.com	530-524-4106	YES/YES	120/200+	NO	NO
Shasta District Fair & Event Center	shastadistrictfairandeventcenter.com	530-378-6789	YES/YES	1000	YES	NO
Sheraton Redding at the Sundial Bridge	marriott.com/hotels/event-planning/ wedding-planning/rddsi-sheraton-red- ding-hotel-at-the-sundial-bridge/	530.364.2800	YES/YES	50-200	YES	YES
Stronghold Ranch	strongholdranchevents.com	209-747-7495	YES/YES	70/200	YES	NO
TBS Ranch	tbsranch.com	530-410-2181	YES/YES	200	YES	NO
The Ammon Ranch	theammonranch.com	530-629-2989	NO/YES	150	YES	NO
The Cookhouse	bridgebayhouseboats.com	530-275-3921	YES/YES	175-250	YES	YES
The Riverview Wedding & Events	riverview4weddings.com	530-365-3011	YES/YES	350	YES	YES
The Rustic Rose	therusticroseredbluff.com	530-527-7930	NO/YES	200	YES	NO
The White House	whitehouseredding.com	530-221-3219	NO/YES	250	YES	NO
Tierra Oaks Golf Club	tierraoaksgc.com	530-275-0795	YES/YES	150	YES	YES
Tsasdi Resort	tsasdiresort.us	530-238-2575	YES/YES	150/220	YES	NO
Turtle Bay / Sundial Bridge	turtlebay.org/facilityrental	530-242-3180	YES/YES	400	NO	NO

Wedding Directory Local Wedding Professionals

A Planned Affair	530-351-1149
aplannedaffair.net	
Albaugh Guest House	530-336-6267
Fall River Valley	
Angie Hawkins Photography	530-356-1826
angiehawkinsphotography.com	
Avanti Travel	530-244-1400
2025 Hilltop Dr, Redding, CA 96002	
Axe & Rose Public House/Cascade Room Event Hall	530-964-2822
mccloudhotel.com/gatherings	
Bianchi Orchards	530-527-9157
bianchiorchards.com/untitled-c884	
Cake is the Best Part	530-605-4540
1024 Placer St, Redding, CA 96001	
Chameleon Photography	530-515-8756
chameleonphotographix.com	
Cheryl & Company Goldsmiths	530-945-4441
cherylgold.net Etsy: cherylgold	
Crystal Amen Photography	530-941-0012
crystalamenphotography.com	
Flowers by Amber	530-355-9917
facebook.com/flowersbyamberweddings	
Frugal Dame	530-999-3020
thefrugaldame.com	
Gaia Hotel	530-365-7077
gaiahotelspa.com	
Geri & Jeans Weddings by Design	530-474-4101
aweddingtorememberbygeri.com	
Glamorous Day Spa	530-365-1017
glamorousdayspa.net	
Grace Aston Photography	530-949-2444
graceastonphotography.com	
Grace Lake Resort	707-499-3604
gracelakeresort.com	
Heart S Ranch	530-347-0077
heartsranch.com	
Iron Horse Unlimited Outdoor Event Venue	530-925-2608
www.ironhorseunlimitedllc.com	
Marian Morgan-Hunt	530-549-4470
marianmorganhunt.com	
McCloud Guest House	530-964-3160
guesthousemccloud.com/weddings	

McClould Hotel	530-964-2822
mccloudhotel.com	
Mt. Shasta Resort	530-926-0678
mountshastaresort.com	
Mt. Shasta Ski Park	530-926-8610
www.skipark.com	
Red Lion Redding	530-224-6611
redlion.com/redding	
Redding Senior Center	530-246-30421
reddingseniorcenter.org	
Redding Tents & Events	530-222-2000
reddingtentsandevents.com	
Redding Video Productions	530-222-5281
reddingvideoproductions.com	
Rocking P BBQ	530-348-2612
Facebook.com/rockingpbbq5580	
Sacramento River House	530-524-4106
sacramentoriverhouse.com	
Shasta District Fair & Event Center	530-319-3454
shastadistrictfairandeventcenter.com	
Sheraton Redding	530-378-6789
sheratonredding.com	
Simply Elegant Bridal Boutique	530-319-3399
1746 Churn Creek Rd, Redding, CA 96002	weddingsbymarilyn.net
Snows Wedding & Party Rentals	530-222-8606
snowsweddings.com	
Sublime Cake Design	530-222-5270
2633 Park Marina Dr, Redding, CA 96002	sublimecakedesign.com
The Gaia Hotel & Spa	530-247-7712
4125 Riverside Place, Anderson, CA 96007	gaiahotelspa.com
Riverview Wedding & Events	530-365-3011
riverview4weddings.com	
The Rustic Rose	530-527-7930
TheRusticRoseRedBluff.com	
The Speakeasy Salon	530-209-1549
facebook.com/TheSpeakeasySalon	
Tsasdi Resort	530-238-2575
www.tsasdiresort.us	
Tuxedo Den	530-223-5632
218 Hartnell Ave, Redding, CA 96002	
Welch Enterprises	530-241-4287
welchseptic.com	



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